

LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Collon Quarry	
Other names used for site		
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian to Silurian	
TOWNLAND(S)	Collon	
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Collon	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	13	
ITM CO-ORDINATES	699853E 781425N	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	36	GS1 1:100,000 BEDROCK Sheet NO. 13

Outline Site Description

This site is a disused quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks that were quarried here are Ordovician volcanic lavas of the Collon Formation. In modern stratigraphical terminology they are of probable Sandbian age, formerly of early Caradoc age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The volcanic lavas, described as autobrecciated keratophyres in 1952, are essentially andesitic lavas that were fragmented internally as they erupted so they have a broken-up or breccia texture. They were also altered chemically during or shortly after eruption so there are few primary features visible. They appear massive, although some separate lava flows may be distinguished.

On top of the lava flows, in some parts of the quarry, are some thin sedimentary rocks containing fossils of brachiopods, trilobites, crinoids, bryozoans, corals and others. These are from the base of the overlying Knockerk House Formation.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a site of County Geological Site importance as a representative section of the rock succession within the Grangegeeth Terrane in the Iapetus Suture zone of Ireland.

Management/promotion issues

Future exploitation of the rocks here seems unlikely and the faces are beginning to become vegetated. The volcanic rocks are of interest to geologists but do not present much of visible interest to a non-specialist. Promotion of the site would only be an option if ownership and access were fully known and secured.



A panorama view of the southern side of the quarry from the northern side.



An upper bench on the southern side of Collon Quarry.



A view of a section on the southern margin of Collon Quarry where fossiliferous sediments overlie the volcanic lavas.



